

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager
Tel: 305-673-7010 , Fax: 305-673-7782

NO. LTC # **315-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: July 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Environment and Sustainability Grants

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to provide an update on the Environment and Sustainability Grants funded through the Boucher Brothers LLC Public Beach Concessionaire Agreement and Franchisee Waste Haulers Agreement.

On May 11, 2016 the City Commission adopted resolution 2016-29396 authorizing the City manager to award, through a competitive selection process, up to four grants totaling \$60,000 for projects or programs within our City that promote environmental, marine resource protection and/or environmental stewardship. A Selection Committee comprised of City staff was created to review and evaluate all grant applications submitted. The Selection Committee utilized a score sheet to evaluate each application based on the project overview, project benefits, experience, budget, and priority alignment. The deadline for the submission of the applications was July 1, 2016 and a total of fourteen grants applications were received. The selection committee thoroughly reviewed each application and decided to support five projects in order to increase the overall impact of the environmental awareness activities.

Based on the criteria within the scoring process, the organizations that applied were provided an average score. The top five applications with the highest rank were selected and will be awarded the amounts provided in Attachment A.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me.

Attachment A: Grant Applicants Average Scores

Attachment B: Grant Finalists Program Overview

SMT/ESW/YP

ATTACHMENT A

Organization	Average Score	Rank	Amount
Pelican Harbor Seabird Station	95.75	1	\$15,000.00
Teen Job Corps	94.2	2	\$15,000.00
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center	92.25	3	\$15,000.00
Miami Beach Botanical Garden	87.13	4	\$10,000.00
Institute for Regional Conservation	86.25	5	\$5,000.00
University of Miami – College of Engineering	84.88	6	
Coral Morphologic	78.25	7	
Dream in Green	77.88	8	
Volunteer Clean Up	77.63	9	
Florida International University	75.13	10	
Environmental Coalition Of Miami and the Beaches (ECOMB)	74.63	11	
Miami Waterkeeper	75	12	
Love the Everglades	67.5	13	
Refill Store	61.25	14	

Program/Project Overviews

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station - Pelican Harbor Seabird Station (PHSS) has served as the only full service wildlife hospital within Miami-Dade County for the past 36 years. In 2015, an estimated 201 sick, injured or orphaned native birds and wildlife were rescued from Miami Beach. The PHSS grant program will offer four Operation Rescue trainings in collaboration with Miami Beach NGO's and/or City Departments and/or citizen's groups. This will include four large scale community events to educate the public about the environment, sustainability and marine conservation as it relates to trash, pollution, and fisheries entanglements. PHSS will provide four public releases of seabirds, raptors and/or songbirds as an opportunity to highlight partnerships and collaborative efforts with Miami Beach. Additionally, PHSS will continue providing professional care and rapid response to injured native wildlife found within the city limits of Miami Beach.

Teen Job Corps - Teen Job Corps (TJC), is an award winning 501(C)(3) Non-Profit, Service Learning, Public Service Organization, employs low-income, local area youths to address numerous environmental protective maintenance activities needed to support the City's natural resource management. The proposed program will continue supporting the tasks performed by TJC youth and involve non-native plant removal, over-growth removal, shoreline restoration and weekly debris removal, garden and landscape plantings, all of which enhance the natural, native flora and fauna of the area. Their efforts will include organizing community volunteer waterway/shoreline cleanup events after spring and fall high tides and participates in all shoreline cleanup events sponsored by several partnering community organizations.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center - The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center (MSDCNC) overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and is on 165 acres of undisturbed and protected natural habitat on a barrier island like Miami Beach. MSDBNC is the only location in Miami-Dade County that offers hands-on education on marine ecology specifically the mangroves and seagrasses of Florida and the unique Fossilized Reef. The proposed program will serve 1000 school age children (K-12), college students, senior citizens, and community and religious groups of all ages. Each program will have approximately 10 participants per group for a total of 100 programs guided by MSDCNC naturalists. Free bus transportation will be offered and provided to and from the participant's school or community center to the MSDBNC. Activities would include a combination of field science study programs, beach clean-ups, native plant restoration projects, marine debris removal events, and education on mangrove/sea turtle conservation.

Miami Beach Botanical Garden - The proposed project is to expand the Miami Beach Botanical Garden's (MBBG) Native Garden with a Pine Rockland demonstration garden. The goal is to create an environment where native plants specific to the Miami Beach ecosystem are grown. These types of plants have a significant role in the local community by providing habitat for indigenous fauna and provide ecosystem services specific to local needs. These benefits include storm water filtration, wind buffering, and erosion protection. The demonstration garden will actively encourage neighbors and South Florida locals to consider their landscape pallet as part of their environmental footprint. Expanding native installations in the garden will also allow for the community to buy native plants within the nursery. The program will also be tied in to the Rising Above native species pallet program at City Hall.

Institute for Regional Conservation - The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) will lead an Environmental Stewardship program that will focus on various marine conservation issues such as beach erosion, beach biodiversity, sea turtle lighting issues, sea level rise and waste reduction. IRC has a history of implementing conservation projects throughout South Florida and will produce programs that are successful and meaningful to both the environment and volunteers. The proposed program will involve beach restoration, beach cleanup events, and hands on marine conservation workshops for local citizens and afterschool programs. These events will focus on invasive plant species and adding native plants into the landscape to help increase biodiversity, minimize the impacts of erosion and reduce the lighting impacts of nearby buildings on sea turtles.